

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LENDING 01307 211148Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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R 211115Z AUG 75

FM AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1507

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L L E N I N G R A D 1307

EXDIS

EO 11652GDS

TAGS: EAGR, APAP, UR

SUBJ: PROPAGANDIST COMMENTS ON SOVIET GRAIN HARVEST AND GRAIN
PURCHASES

1. LENINGRAD ZNANIYE (KNOWLEDGE) SOCIETY PROPAGANDIST
COMMENTED BRIEFLY ON SOVIET GRAIN HARVEST AND GRAIN
PURCHASES ABROAD IN AUGUST 20 EVENING PRESENTATION.

2. PROPAGANDIST, IN PREPARED REMARKS, CONCEDED THAT MUCH
NOW BEING SAID ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR GRAIN HARVEST; IT
WAS STILL TOO EARLY TO SAY HOW THE HARVEST WOULD TURN OUT,
BUT "WE THINK IT WILL BE GOOD."

3. IN WHAT AMOUNTED TO DEFENSE OF SOVIET GRAIN PURCHASES
ABROAD, PROPAGANDIST BLANDLY CONTENTED THAT SOVIET UNION
PURCHASES GRAIN ABROAD NOT RPT NOT BECAUSE IT DOES NOT
HAVE ENOUGH; AFTER ALL, HE SAID, USSR REALLY REQUIRES
ONLY ABOUT 60 MILLION TONS FOR PURELY DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION.
HOWEVER, HE ADDED, SOVIETS ALSO SUPPLY GRAIN TO OTHER
SOCIALIST COUNTRIES AND, IN VIEW OF UNFAVORABLE
CLIMATIC CONDITIONS IN MOST OF USSR, IT WAS SOME
FOUR TIMES CHEAPER TO PURCHASE GRAIN ABROAD, EG FROM
U.S. AND CANADA, THAN TO GROW HERE.
NEUBERT

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, PROPAGANDA, GRAINS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LENING01307
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750289-0571
From: LENINGRAD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750832/aaaabbll.tel
Line Count: 51
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 1
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11 JUN 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <12 JUN 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PROPAGANDIST COMMENTS ON SOVIET GRAIN HARVEST AND GRAIN PURCHASES
TAGS: EAGR, EPAP, UR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006